IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This list of claims replaces all previous submissions.

Claims 1-39 (Cancelled)

40. (Withdrawn) A method of making coffee, the method comprising:

(a) providing a coffee pouch comprising:

(i) a top, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(ii) a bottom, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(iii) the top filter sheet and the bottom filtering sheet connected at a peripheral sealing seam, together, the top filtering sheet, the bottom filtering sheet and the peripheral sealing seam defining a pouch interior; and

(iv) a volume of ground coffee present in and filling the pouch interior;

(b) penetrating hot water under pressure through the top filtering sheet into the coffee pouch to saturate the ground coffee to form a coffee extract;

(c) sealing the peripheral sealing seam and a peripheral portion of the bottom filtering sheet adjacent to the peripheral sealing seam to inhibit escape of the coffee extract from the peripheral sealing seam and the peripheral portion of the bottom filtering sheet adjacent to the peripheral sealing seam;

(d) releasing the coffee extract from the bottom filtering sheet of the pouch; and

(e) collecting a coffee beverage including the coffee extract.

41. (Withdrawn) A method of making coffee, the method comprising:

(a) providing a coffee pouch comprising:

(i) a top, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(ii) a bottom, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(iii) the top filter sheet and the bottom filtering sheet connected at a peripheral sealing seam, together, the top filtering sheet, the bottom filtering sheet and the peripheral sealing seam defining a pouch interior; and

(iv) a volume of ground coffee present in and filling the pouch interior;

(b) penetrating hot water under pressure through the top filtering sheet into the coffee pouch to saturate the ground coffee to form a coffee extract;

(c) sealing a peripheral edge portion of the bottom filtering sheet to inhibit escape of the coffee extract from the peripheral edge portion of the bottom filtering sheet;

(d) releasing the coffee extract from the bottom filtering sheet of the pouch; and

(e) collecting a coffee beverage including the coffee extract.

42. (Withdrawn) A method of making coffee, the method comprising:

(a) providing a coffee pouch comprising:

(i) a top, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(ii) a bottom, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(iii) the top filter sheet and the bottom filtering sheet connected at a peripheral sealing seam, together, the top filtering sheet, the bottom filtering sheet and the peripheral sealing seam defining a pouch interior; and

(iv) a volume of ground coffee present in and filling the pouch interior;

(b) pressing hot water from the top filtering sheet through the pouch for extracting a coffee extract from the ground coffee present in the pouch;

(c) sealing the peripheral sealing seam and a peripheral portion of the bottom filtering sheet adjacent to the peripheral sealing seam to inhibit escape of the coffee extract from the peripheral sealing seam and the peripheral portion of the bottom filtering sheet adjacent to the peripheral sealing seam;

(d) releasing the coffee extract from the bottom filtering sheet of the pouch; and

(e) collecting a coffee beverage including the coffee extract.

43. (Withdrawn) A method of making coffee, the method comprising:

(a) providing a coffee pouch comprising:

(i) a top, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(ii) a bottom, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(iii) the top filter sheet and the bottom filtering sheet connected at a peripheral sealing seam, together, the top filtering sheet, the bottom filtering sheet and the peripheral sealing seam defining a pouch interior; and

(iv) a volume of ground coffee present in and filling the pouch interior;

(b) pressing hot water from the top filtering sheet through the pouch for extracting a coffee extract from the ground coffee present in the pouch;

(c) sealing a peripheral edge portion of the bottom filtering sheet to inhibit escape of the coffee extract from the peripheral edge portion of the bottom filtering sheet;

(d) releasing the coffee extract from the bottom filtering sheet of the pouch; and

(e) collecting a coffee beverage including the coffee extract.

44. (Withdrawn) A method of making coffee, the method comprising:

(a) providing a coffee pouch comprising:

(i) a top, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(ii) a bottom, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(iii) the top filter sheet and the bottom filtering sheet connected at a peripheral sealing seam, together, the top filtering sheet, the bottom filtering sheet and the peripheral sealing seam defining a pouch interior; and

(iv) a volume of ground coffee present in and filling the pouch interior; wherein the diameter of the pouch is approximately equal to 74 mm and the diameter of a coffee bed formed in the pouch is approximately equal to 61 mm;

(b) penetrating hot water under pressure through the top filtering sheet into the coffee pouch to saturate the ground coffee to form a coffee extract;

(c) sealing the peripheral sealing seam and a peripheral portion of the bottom filtering sheet adjacent to the peripheral sealing seam to inhibit escape of the

coffee extract from the peripheral sealing seam and the peripheral portion of the bottom filtering sheet adjacent to the peripheral sealing seam;

(d) releasing the coffee extract from the bottom filtering sheet of the pouch; and

(e) collecting a coffee beverage including the coffee extract.

45. (Withdrawn) A method of making coffee, the method comprising:

(a) providing a coffee pouch comprising:

(i) a top, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(ii) a bottom, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(iii) the top filter sheet and the bottom filtering sheet connected at a peripheral sealing seam, together, the top filtering sheet, the bottom filtering sheet and the peripheral sealing seam defining a pouch interior; and

(iv) a volume of ground coffee present in and filling the pouch interior; wherein the diameter of the pouch is approximately equal to 74 mm and the diameter of a coffee bed formed in the pouch is approximately equal to 61 mm;

(b) penetrating hot water under pressure through the top filtering sheet into the coffee pouch to saturate the ground coffee to form a coffee extract;

(c) sealing a peripheral edge portion of the bottom filtering sheet to inhibit escape of the coffee extract from the peripheral edge portion of the bottom filtering sheet;

(d) releasing the coffee extract from the bottom filtering sheet of the pouch; and

(e) collecting a coffee beverage including the coffee extract.

46. (Withdrawn) A method of making coffee, the method comprising:

(a) providing a coffee pouch comprising:

(i) a top, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(ii) a bottom, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(iii) the top filter sheet and the bottom filtering sheet connected at a peripheral sealing seam, together, the top filtering sheet, the bottom filtering sheet and the peripheral sealing seam defining a pouch interior; and

(iv) a volume of ground coffee present in and filling the pouch interior; wherein the diameter of the pouch is approximately equal to 74 mm and the diameter of a coffee bed formed in the pouch is approximately equal to 61 mm;

(b) pressing hot water from the top filtering sheet through the pouch for extracting a coffee extract from the ground coffee present in the pouch;

(c) sealing the peripheral sealing seam and a peripheral portion of the bottom filtering sheet adjacent to the peripheral sealing seam to inhibit escape of the coffee extract from the peripheral sealing seam and the peripheral portion of the bottom filtering sheet adjacent to the peripheral sealing seam;

(d) releasing the coffee extract from the bottom filtering sheet of the pouch; and

(e) collecting a coffee beverage including the coffee extract.

47. (Withdrawn) A method of making coffee, the method comprising:

(a) providing a coffee pouch comprising:

(i) a top, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(ii) a bottom, disk-shaped filtering sheet;

(iii) the top filter sheet and the bottom filtering sheet connected at a peripheral sealing seam, together, the top filtering sheet, the bottom filtering sheet and the peripheral sealing seam defining a pouch interior; and

(iv) a volume of ground coffee present in and filling the pouch interior; wherein the diameter of the pouch is approximately equal to 74 mm and the diameter of a coffee bed formed in the pouch is approximately equal to 61 mm;

(b) pressing hot water from the top filtering sheet through the pouch for extracting a coffee extract from the ground coffee present in the pouch;

(c) sealing a peripheral edge portion of the bottom filtering sheet to inhibit escape of the coffee extract from the peripheral edge portion of the bottom filtering sheet;

(d) releasing the coffee extract from the bottom filtering sheet of the pouch; and

(e) collecting a coffee beverage including the coffee extract.

Claims 48-53 (Cancelled)

54. (Currently amended) A coffee pouch constructed to cooperate with a holder assembly system for use in a coffee machine for preparing coffee, the holder having a bowl-shaped inner [[well]]space bounded by at least one generally vertically extending sidewall defining an inner space of the holder and a bottom including a fluid impervious region extending from said sidewall to a fluid pervious region contained within the boundaries of said fluid impervious region, and an outlet; the pouch comprising:
a pill-shaped flexible conformable pouch manufactured from filtering paper and fillable with ground coffee, said pouch including a top layer having central portion and a peripheral edge, a bottom layer having a peripheral edge, said peripheral edge being sealed to define a space therebetween for said ground coffee, and defining a double thickness region at said peripheral edge;
said pouch being flexibly and intimately engageable with said holder along said sidewall, and along said fluid impervious region, to create, when wet, a region of high pressure resistance to flow fluid along said sidewall and said fluid impervious region, and an area of low pressure resistance through said pouch toward said fluid pervious region;
so that when pressurized hot water is fed directly to the central portion of the top layer of said pouch, the water is substantially prevented from by-passing ground coffee by creating a path of least resistance toward the center of the pouch to said fluid impervious region thereby insuring that the water will maximize contact with as many coffee grounds as possible.

55. (New) A pouch for use in a coffee machine for preparing coffee the coffee machine having a container having a generally planar wall and bowl-shaped inner space bounded by a bottom having at least one outlet opening and at least one vertical sidewall extending from said planar wall , and,
included in the inner space of the container, the bottom having a plurality of channel-shaped grooves extending in radial direction of the bowl-shaped inner space to the outlet opening and, in use,
the pouch being a pill-shaped pouch manufactured from filtering paper and filled with ground coffee forming a coffee bed in the pouch, the pouch being constructed to rest on the bottom and extend over the bottom to a position adjacent the vertical sidewall , said pouch including a disk-shaped top sheet and a disk-shaped bottom sheet which are interconnected adjacent their longitudinal edges, the interconnected parts of the top and bottom sheets forming an annular sealing seam said sealing seam being compressible against said generally planar wall,
so that hot water which is fed under pressure to a top side of the container by the coffee machine, causes the hot water to be pressed from a top side of the pouch through the pouch for extracting the ground coffee included in the pouch, the coffee extract formed being blocked from flowing out of said seam by said compression and thus flowing from a bottom side of the pouch and from the container via the outlet wherein each of said grooves extends from a position located under the coffee bed of the pouch in a direction away from the sidewall to insure that said hot water flows through as much of the pouch as possible.

56. (New) A pouch according to claim 55, wherein the bottom of the pouch has a shape substantially corresponding to the shape of the bottom of the container.

57. (New) A pouch according to claim 55, wherein the pouch comprises a disk-shaped top sheet and a disk-shaped bottom sheet which are interconnected adjacent their longitudinal edges, the interconnected parts of the top and bottom sheets forming an annular sealing seam of double thickness material.

58. (New) A pouch according to claim 55, wherein the diameter of the inner space of the container is approximately equal to 74 mm and that the diameter of the pouch is approximately equal to 74 mm.

59. (New) A pouch according to claim 55, wherein the diameter of the inner space of the container is approximately equal to 74 mm and that the diameter of a coffee bed formed in the pouch is approximately equal to 61 mm.

60. (New) A pouch according to claim 55 wherein said vertical wall has a predetermined diameter and said sloped portion has an outer diameter of approximately 61/74ths of said predetermined diameter.

61. (New) A pouch according to claim 55 wherein the portion of the pouch capable of containing coffee grounds has a cross-sectional dimension approximately 61/77ths of the cross-section of said vertical sidewall of a said holder.